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SCHOLASTIC IS DEC. 16-17!! This newsletter is being sponsored by University of North Dakota President Thomas Clifford to remind rated USCF players of the 8th Annual North Dakota Scholastic Chess Championships Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-17 at UND in Grand Forks. Details on attached flyer. Attention USCF junior members in North Dakota and the western counties of Minnesota: The North Dakota Chess Association urgently asks that you make every effort to play in the Scholastic. Otherwise, this may not be just the 8th Annual Scholastic, it may be the last North Dakota Scholastic. Also, if you plan to participate, be sure to bring at least three chess-playing friends with you. It doesn't matter if they're beginners--this Scholastic is expected to be dominated by unrated players. Thus every school has an opportunity to win a team championship. Both the high school and junior high school sections should be very exciting! So, make arrangements to get out of school on Friday, Dec. 16, and to get to Grand Forks. Show the flyer to your parents, teachers, etc. You might point out that NDCA changed the Scholastic to a Friday-Saturday tournament this year so that students would not have to miss more than one day of school. Advance entries are urged. Questions can be directed day or night to Tournament Director Dave Vorland (phone numbers in attached flyer).

RON SCHAUER IS NEW NDCA PRESIDENT. Ron Schauer of Mandan was elected President of the North Dakota Chess Association at the annual meeting held in conjunction with the North Dakota Open. Ron previously served as President in 1974-1975 and 1975-1976. Retiring President Dave Vorland of Grand Forks was elected Treasurer and, under new rules adopted at the meeting, appointed Don Varvel of Grand Forks as Secretary. Tim Durkop of Bismarck was elected Vice President. Among actions at the meeting, the NDCA invited players from the western counties of Minnesota to participate in the North Dakota Scholastic, ruled that winners of 1976 Scholastic should receive the advertised amount in scholarships, rather than the lower amount published in the last newsletter (Erik Knutson will receive $150, Dale Kunnanz $75, and Randy Pfeilschiefter, $75); and instructed the Treasurer to set up rules for a North Dakota Grand Prix Competition. A report from President Ron Schauer will be included in the next newsletter in early January.

UPCOMING EVENTS. At presstime, editor Dave Vorland had received or dug up details on the following upcoming events (contact Dave if you wish publicity in the January newsletter): Dec. 10--NDSU Open, 4-SS, 50/90, NDSU Memorial Union, Fargo, EF $5 at site, lower if in advance, see Chess Life & Review for details. Dec. 16-17--8th Annual North Dakota Scholastic, UND, Grand Forks. Jan. 7-8--Tri-College Red River Open, East Complex, Concordia College in Moorhead, 5-SS, 40/2, preregistration EF $10, $7 to juniors and Tri-College Students (mail to MSCA Vikingland, 315 Dale Ave., Rt. 3, Moorhead 56560 by Jan. 6), EF at site: $13 and $10, registration 9-9:30 a.m. Jan. 7, prizes per entries. Jan. 21-22--Bison Winter Open, 5-SS, 50/2, at NDSU Memorial Union in Fargo, entry fee will be "moderate" but not yet determined, contact Abe Thompson, 315 S. 7th, Fargo 58102. Feb. 4-5--Minot Winter Fest (tentative), no details firmed up yet on this always fine tournament; hopefully arrangements will be finalized by the next newsletter. March 5--UND Sioux Octos, 3-SS in sections of eight players, 30/1, $5 entry fee, $25 first, $10 second in each section, registration ends at 10 a.m. in UND Student Center, Grand Forks, advance entries to Dave Vorland, 2212-10th Ave. N. Grand Forks 58201. April 22-23--North Dakota Closed, Prince Hotel in Bismarck, 5-SS, 45/2, Tim Durkop will again direct, more details next newsletter.

RECENT RESULTS. Eugene Kerkay of Minneapolis won the 13th North Dakota Open played in October in Fargo...Tom Wangler of Mandan, who has since joined the Navy, won the North Dakota Closed Championship in Bismarck in April, defeating S.A. Popel in the last round...Steve Eik of Fargo won the Grand Forks Open played on Nov. 6...Cal Wipf of Fargo won the college-adults division of the recent Concordiad Chess Tournament, while Steve Eik won the high school division...The Third Governor's Cup match between North Dakota and South Dakota is scheduled for Dec. 10 at the Capitol in Bismarck--North Dakota won last year's event held in Pierre, 7½-2½...Minot High School won the 1976 High School Team Championship, while Velva won the Junior High School Championship.

USCF DUES REMINDER. All current USCF members are urged to renew when their expiration date comes up, and to urge their friends to become USCF members. North Dakota's standing in the USCF is directly related to the number of members living in the state. Remember, you can buy your

8TH ANNUAL NORTH DAKOTA SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

To be played Friday and Saturday, December 16-17, 1977
At the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks

(Sponsored by the North Dakota Chess Association, the UND Chess Club, and University of North Dakota President Thomas J. Clifford. Sanctioned by the United States Chess Federation.)

OPEN TO ALL students in North Dakota's Senior and Junior High Schools, both public and private, as well as to students enrolled in the same kind of schools in the western Minnesota counties bordering the Red River. Even a single player from a school may enter. There is no limit on the number of players who may enter, although only the top four scores will count in determining team champions. The tourney will be played in two sections: High School, for grades 10-12; and Junior High School for grades 7-9. Neither of the two tournaments is an elimination event; all entrants are eligible to play all 6 games, win or lose. Every game is to be played to a finish without adjudication, if at all possible.

LOCATION—University Center on the campus of UND in Grand Forks. The tournaments will be played in the Prairie State Ballroom. Meals, at reasonable rates, will be available in the building (see below for lodging arrangements). Note: The Center staff will be unprepared to answer any prior queries. For such information, phone tournament director Dave Vorland at 777-2731 (work) or 775-0480 (home), or write to him at 2212 10th Avenue N., Grand Forks, ND 58201. During the tournament, urgent messages can be called into the University Center at 777-4307.

CHESS

ADVANCE REGISTRATION by mail is strongly encouraged to assure entry and to reduce delays at the start of the events. Important: pre-registrants need not appear at the tournament site until 11 a.m. Friday, when play begins, and they will be guaranteed entry in the tournament even if delayed in travel. Mail your entry fee with your name, address, school name, and grade to Dave Vorland, 2212 10th Avenue N., Grand Forks, ND 58201, in time to be received by Dec. 12 to qualify for lowest entry fees (see also housing information below). Since the tournaments are nationally sanctioned, all entrants must be, or become, members of the United States Chess Federation and must include their identification numbers (even if expired) and/or membership fees as needed (see below). Checks and money orders should be made out to "Dave Vorland-NDCA." In the event a school is to be billed, a letter from a responsible official so authorizing must be presented. For those who have not registered in advance, registration at the site will be open from 8 to 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 16. Later entry, while not forbidden, may necessitate forfeiture of the rounds missed.

ENTRY FEE for the Junior High School tournament is $2 if received by Dec. 12, $3 at the site; for the Senior High School event it is $3 if received by Dec. 12, $4 at the site. Both tournaments are Nationally Rated by the U.S. Chess Federation, and all participants finishing it will receive an Official USCF rating recognized everywhere in the USA. If not already a member, entrants must join USCF by paying $2 (or $6 if a subscription to "Chess Life and Review" magazine is desired). These membership rates are a bargain (usually they're $2.50 and $8), so current USCF members may wish to renew at this time. Incidentally, the magazine subscription alone is worth $13.50 per year to non-USCF members.

TROPHIES & PRIZES!

TEAM TROPHIES will be awarded to the North Dakota Senior and Junior High School Team Champions, and to the Second Place Team in each event. In each case, the number of games won or drawn (draws count ½-point) by the four highest finishing players from each school are totaled to decide the Team standings. By this system the smaller schools can compete on an equal basis with larger ones. No limit is placed on the number of entrants from each school. Extra players may help, as there is always the chance they will outscore the "regulars" and thus raise their school in the standings. Players from the same school will not be paired in the first three rounds.

INDIVIDUAL TROPHIES AND PRIZES—In both tournaments there will be a Championship Trophy. The champion in each tournament also will receive a North Dakota Chess Association Scholarship—$100 for the High School winner, $75 for the Junior High School winner. The top six finishers in each tournament will receive U.S. Chess Federation gift certificates, redeemable for chess books or equipment. Additional USCF gift certificates and prizes will be awarded if entries permit. All players will be mailed an official USCF tournament cross table, showing each individual's results and his or her end-of-tournament national rating.

TOURNEY INFORMATION—Please bring chess sets (Staunton type only) and chess clocks if possible. Players may not give or receive advice during a game; violation is punishable by forfeiture and even expulsion, as all games are important. The International (FIDE) Laws of Chess apply, with U.S. Chess Federation regulations as necessary. Clocks may be placed on any game and long games will be adjourned and resumed later between rounds. There will be three rounds on Friday, scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and three games on Saturday, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m., 12 noon, and 4 p.m. The rate of play will be 30 moves per hour, and 15/½-hour thereafter. Ties will be broken for trophies and gift certificates by the Solkoff, Skoff, Median and S-B systems, in that order.

HOUSING—UND dormitories are full with a record student enrollment. However, the following housing arrangements have been made for the convenience of players. The Town House Motor Inn, Box 309, Grand Forks, ND 58201, is offering rooms at $6 per night, four to a room (proportionately more if fewer per room), if you make your reservation by mail at least a week in advance and if you mention the tournament. The Town House has a swimming pool. Sleeping bag space—arrangements are being made to provide a supervised area for students who wish to "rough" it with their own sleeping bags. Cost will be $1 per night per person, with signup at the registration site.